

Technical Standards

Nursing is a practice discipline with cognitive, sensory, affective and psychomotor performance requirements. The following Technical Standards are used to assist students in determining whether accommodations or modifications are necessary and provide an objective measure upon which informed decisions can be based about whether students can participate in the nursing program. These standards will be available to all students prior to admission. A student with disabilities who believes that he/she may need assistance in meeting the Technical Standards for the nursing program should contact Student Disability Services at sds-info@uiowa.edu or 141 University Capitol Centre (319-335-1462).

Issue	Description	Standard	Examples of Necessary Action <i>(not all inclusive)</i>
Communication	Speech, reading, writing	Effective use of English language. Communication abilities sufficient for effective interaction in verbal, nonverbal & written form. Comprehension & accurate recall of verbal & written communication	Engage in clear and effective communication with the client/client system. Modulates words in accordance with patient's ability to understand. Interprets and responds to non-verbal communication. Concisely & accurately explains treatments & procedures, and health education. Documents clearly and concisely, within legal guidelines and with minimal spelling errors.
Interpersonal	Ability to relate to others	Interpersonal abilities sufficient to effectively interact with individuals, families & groups from a variety of social, emotional, cultural & intellectual backgrounds	Identify needs of others, and establish rapport with patient, families and colleagues.
Behavioral	Emotional & mental stability	Functions effectively under stress	Flexible, concern for others. Ability to provide safe nursing care & administer medications in a stressful environment with multiple interruptions & noises, distractions, unexpected patient needs.
Critical Thinking	Ability to problem solve	Critical thinking ability sufficient for clinical judgment	Identify cause-effect relationships in clinical situation, develop nursing care plans. Ability to quickly measure, calculate, reason, analyze, prioritize & synthesize data in a fast-paced environment.
Information Technology	Ability to use electronic resources and clinical	Electronic information seeking, interpretation and application for clinical practice for clinical care	Using a health-agency device to access information and document care in an electronic health record Use library, professional organizational and other credible clinical resources to clinical decision-making
Reliable punctuality	Ability to attend to timeliness	Self-management to consistently do work within the defined time expectation	Manages work to meet deadlines Arrives on time, well prepared to fully participate If unable to attend clinical or class, proactively communicates as directed
Hearing	Use of auditory sense	Auditory ability sufficient to monitor & assess health needs	Hear monitors, alarm, emergency signals, & cries for help, heart, lung & bowel sounds.
Visual	Use of sight	Visual ability sufficient for observation & assessment necessary in nursing care	Observe patient responses, ability to see sm. calibration markings & numbers (e.g. on syringes), assess color change in skin & fluids.
Tactile	Use of touch	Tactile ability sufficient for physical assessment	Perform palpation, functions of physical exams & or those related to therapeutic intervention, & sense temperature.
Mobility	Physical ability, strength, stamina	Physical abilities & stamina sufficient to move from room to room quickly & maneuver in small spaces	Move around in patient rooms, work spaces & treatment areas. Provide routine personal care and emergency care including CPR.
Motor Skills	Physical ability, coordination, dexterity	Gross & fine motor abilities sufficient to provide safe & effective nursing care.	Calibrate & use equipment, lift, & transfer & position patients. Maintain sterile technique.